

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 2 and 3 are pending in the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner rejects claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner rejects claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by "Interactive Books," by G.M. Manzini et al., International Journal of Modern Physics C, Vol. 5, No. 5., pp. 785-789 (1994) (hereinafter "Manzini").

II. The § 112 Indefinite Rejections

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner contends that five different clauses in claims 2 and 3 are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner's contentions are respectfully traversed. Claims must be given their broadest reasonable interpretation in view of the specification. See MPEP § 2111.01. Applicants respectfully submit that all five clauses objected to by the Examiner are definite when viewed in light of the specification.

A. "Allowing a Sponsor to Set
Up an Interactive Web Book"

The Examiner contends that "it is unclear how a sponsor is allowed to set up an interactive web book." Applicants respectfully disagree. As described in the specification, for example, a sponsor can set up an interactive web book using a server such as a web server computer. See, e.g., page 5, lines 12-13 and page 6, lines 10-14. In addition, a sponsor is allowed to set up an interactive web book by, for example, replicating an existing interactive book. See, e.g., page 6, lines 14-20. Accordingly, the clause "allowing a sponsor to set up an interactive web book" is definite.

B. "Allowing Contributors to Contribute
Material to the Interactive Web Book"

The Examiner contends that it is unclear how contributors are allowed to contribute material to the interactive web book. Applicants respectfully disagree. The specification describes an authorizing tool 86, for example, that allows contributors to contribute material to interactive web books. Authoring tool 86 includes an editing tool 136 and a derivation tool 132. See, e.g., Fig. 6. Editing tool 136, for example, allows contributors to contribute original material to an interactive web book. See, e.g., page 15, lines 13-14. Derivation tool 136 allows contributors to contribute material based on existing material. See, e.g., page 15, lines 16-17.

Accordingly, the clause "allowing contributors to contribute material to the interactive web book" is definite.

C. "Compensating Both the Sponsor And the Contributors"

The Examiner contends "that it is unclear based on what both the sponsor and the contributors are compensated." Applicants believe the Examiner is contending that it is unclear what compensation the sponsor and contributors receive. Applicants respectfully submit this clause is definite. First, applicants submit that the verb "compensate" has an ordinary definite meaning. Second, the specification is consistent with this meaning. For example, the specification states that sponsors and contributors can be compensated by being given rewards. See, e.g., page 25, lines 3-14. The specification describes rewards as including, for example, monetary and non-monetary rewards. See, e.g., page 29, line 21 to page 30, line 16. Accordingly, the clause "compensating both the sponsor and the contributors" is definite.

D. "Supporting a first interactive web book"

The Examiner contends "that it is unclear what the applicant really means by the term 'supporting.'" Applicants respectfully disagree. The specification describes, for example, using computer to support interactive web books. See, e.g., page 5, lines 12-13. Accordingly, the clause "supporting a first interactive web book" is definite.

E. "Allowing a Sponsor to Replicate the First Interactive Web Book to Create a Second Interactive Web Book"

The Examiner contends "it is unclear how a sponsor is allowed to replicate the interactive web book." Applicants respectfully disagree. The specification describes, for example, a replication function that allows a sponsor to replicate interactive web books. See, e.g., page 30, lines 17-21. The replication function may, for example, prompt a "sponsor for information concerning the replication process" (page 30, lines 19-20). Accordingly, the clause "allowing a sponsor to replicate the first interactive web book to create a second interactive web book" is definite.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the § 112 rejections of claims 2 and 3 be withdrawn.

III. The § 102 Rejection over Manzini

The Examiner rejects claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Manzini. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Manzini is a short paper that discusses interactive books. Manzini describes interactive books "as a collection of

HTML documents structured either as textbooks or manuals on scientific and technical subjects" (p. 786).

Manzini fails to show or suggest, however, compensating authors or sponsors of interactive books. Accordingly, for at least this reason, applicants respectfully request that the § 102 rejection of claim 2 be withdrawn.

Manzini also fails to show or suggest allowing anyone to replicate one interactive book to create a second interactive book. Furthermore, Manzini fails to show or suggest compensating contributors of a first interactive book based on revenue derived from a second interactive book. Accordingly for at least these reasons, applicants respectfully request that the § 102 rejection of claim 3 be withdrawn.

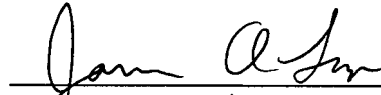
IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, claims 2 and 3 are in condition for allowance. This application is therefore in

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condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are
respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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